



Miami Whitewater Forest

Location: Northwest Hamilton County in SW Ohio, west of Cincinnati, north of Harrison: 9001 Mt. Hope Rd, Crosby Township, OH 45030

Website: <http://greatparks.org/parks/miami-whitewater-forest>

Driving Directions: I-75 north to I-74 west OR I-275 west to I-74 west (passing through Indiana to Ohio). Once westbound on I-74, take exit # 3 for Dry Fork Rd and turn right. After about 2.5 miles, turn right onto New Haven Rd, then an immediate right onto Mt. Hope Rd. The park is approximately 1/2 mile ahead on Mt. Hope Rd.

Entrance Fee: An annual Motor Vehicle Pass costs \$10 and will give access to all of the Hamilton County Parks for the year in which it was purchased; a one-time daily pass costs \$3.

Hiking Trail Miles: The nature trails total about 4.5 miles, including the 1.7 mile Badlands, 0.8 mile Oakleaf, 0.6 mile Tallgrass Prairie and the 1.4 mile Timberlakes trails. Park also has a paved 7.8-mile Shaker Trace Trail (outer loop) and a 1.4-mile Parcours Trail (inner loop).

Trail Features: Paved trails are relatively flat but the nature trails have elevation changes with numerous steps/water boards. Paved loops are great for biking, pushing a stroller or jogging. The longer outer loop trail threads through numerous habitats including farm fields, wildflower meadows and wetlands, and it includes a bird viewing area. Cincinnati Bird Club calls it “the best area for marsh birding in SW Ohio.” The shorter nature trails are good for walks with children and dogs, or trail running. Watch for exposed roots and numerous water boards installed to mitigate damage from rain runoff. Badlands Trail is probably the most strenuous of the 4 nature trails.

Dogs: Dogs are allowed on leashes but owners must provide their own baggies to clean up after pets. There are containers to store baggies if you have extras you would like to leave behind for others who have forgotten theirs. The “largest dog park in the region” is planned for 2014.

Other Activities: The largest of the “Great Parks of Hamilton County” Ohio, Miami Whitewater

offers diverse outdoor entertainment besides hiking on its 4345 acres, including bicycling, camping in a 46-site campground, boating and fishing on the 85-acre picturesque lake, horseback riding, regular and disk golf, even access to a soccer complex and a visitor center with nature display and gift shop. Boats and bicycles are available for rent, and lakeshore fishing is permitted. Park is open daily, dawn to dusk.

